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CHARLOTTE WINE & FOOD WEEKEND   
ANNOUNCES FUNDS RAISED FROM 2019 EVENTS

**$180,000 donated to five local children’s charities.**

Charlotte, NC (June 19, 2019) – Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend Board Chairman Phil Smith announced Tuesday that this year’s activations raised $180,000 for Charlotte-area children’s charities. Checks were presented to the five beneficiaries: Charlotte Concerts, The Council for Children's Rights, Mitchell's Fund, Pat's Place Family Advocacy, and The Relatives, at a Check Presentation Celebration on June 18, 2019. At the presentation, Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend also announced the new Chairman, Alison Summerville, Business Administration Executive with Ally Financial and celebrated Phil Smith for his service as Chairman from 2016 to 2019.

"Our check presentation celebration is the best day of the year. Learning how our charity partners will put these funds to use to uplift and support the less-fortunate children in our community is always rewarding,” says Lauren Deese, Executive Director of Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend. Deese continues to say, “In my second year as Executive Director, I am truly humbled by the strong support of the Charlotte community around our organization and our mission. It’s a team effort to make this event a success, from winemakers and distributors, to restaurants and chefs, corporate sponsors, volunteers, donors, staff and board members. I cannot thank all of our supporters enough and am excited to continue to build on our current momentum, next year and beyond."

Proceeds from the 2019 events will help…

Charlotte Concerts to make a generous contribution to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) designated to 2019-2020 Middle School and High School Honors Orchestras, Honors Band, and Honors Choruses. The students will participate in a two-day experience that includes working with a clinician, rehearsals, and culminates in a concert that is attended by family, friends, and the general public.

Council for Children’s Rights’ to fund an entire week of critical legal and social work that will help build better futures for our communities’ most vulnerable children. Their team of experts — lawyers, social workers, educators, researchers and more — are standing up, speaking out, and fighting for the rights of children every day.

Mitchell’s Fund to pay the salary for a full-time mental health play therapist, who in 2018, provided counseling to 199 sick children at the St. Jude Affiliate Clinic at Novant Health.

Pat’s Place Child Advocacy Center to provide advocacy support, forensic interviews, medical examinations and mental health therapy to children and their families who have suffered abuse in Mecklenburg County.

The Relatives to serve 5,000 youth each year who find themselves in crisis by giving them the counseling and tools they need to reach safety, stability and independence.

Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend (CWFW) celebrated its 31st year of fundraising this past Wednesday, April 24, through Saturday, April 27 with over 20 events spanning across 4 days. Attendees were delighted by an array of events that included signature CWFW staples with a fresh twist: private in-home dinners, restaurant vintner dinners, a Grand Tasting with silent auction, educational wine seminars, and the Lucky 13 Experience Sponsored by David & Pam Furr: a 1000-Point Tasting and 300-Point Italian Wine Dinner with a live auction. Residents and visitors of Charlotte had the opportunity to try an array of fine wines paired with food from the city’s hottest chefs while mixing and mingling with wine industry leaders including the legendary Master Sommelier Fred Dame, Brand Ambassador for DAOU Vineyards; DLynn Proctor, Winery Director, Fantesca Estate & Winery and star of the movie SOMM; and Kelley Jones, President of The Spire Collection to name a few.

The CWFW team has a busy summer schedule planning for the year ahead. Save the date for next year’s festival April 22-25, 2020, and be on the lookout for exciting announcements regarding CWFW’s Bank of America Fall Favorites Dinner taking place in fall 2019 and the Wells Fargo Kick-off Dinner in early 2020. Patrons should expect Fall Favorites tickets to go on sale in late summer. Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are available for every CWFW event, and those interested are encouraged to email [info@charlottewineandfood.org](mailto:info@charlottewineandfood.org) or call the office at (704) 338-9463.

The 2019 - 2020 charity beneficiaries will include the following children’s charities: GenOne, The Learning Collaborative, Mitchell’s Fund, and The Relatives.

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ABOUT CWFW

Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend brings together leading winemakers from around the world and pairs them with the best of Charlotte’s culinary artisans to celebrate and advance appreciation for great wine and food, while making significant contributions to charitable organizations that benefit children and their families in the Charlotte community. For more information, please email [info@charlottewineandfood.org](mailto:info@charlottewineandfood.org).